



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM PLANT GUIDE

SLENDER WHEATGRASS

Cultivars: Pryor, San Luis, Primar,
Revenue, Elbee, Adanac

Seed Size: 160,000 seeds/pound

Form: Bunchgrass, 24-42" tall,
narrow-spike seedhead

Area of Adaptation: Slender wheatgrass is adapted to areas of the Inland Pacific Northwest that receive between 12 and 24 inches of annual precipitation. Slender wheatgrass is a short-lived bunchgrass native throughout western North America. It frequently occurs at higher elevations, above 4500 feet. Slender wheatgrass is similar in appearance to thickspike wheatgrass but lives 5-7 years and is not rhizomatous. It exhibits moderate to excellent tolerance of saline soils but lacks good drought tolerance because it matures late in the season. It tolerates shading better than many of the other wheatgrasses.

Seeding: Slender wheatgrass is fairly large seeded but must be seeded no deeper than 3/4-inch. A firm seedbed that allows for good seed to soil contact is necessary for good emergence. Seeding should be completed late in the fall or very early in the spring. It germinates readily and grows very rapidly after emergence. It is one of the fastest establishing perennial grasses in the Northwest.

Slender wheatgrass **MUST** be seeded in a mix because it will not persist for the life of a CRP contract. The seed will bridge in the seedbox without adequate agitation. Periodically stirring the contents of the seedbox with a hoe or similar tool will prevent bridging.

Broadcast seeding should only be considered for fields that are too loose to pack. Light harrowing can improve stand establishment. Harrowing immediately prior to broadcasting is generally superior to harrowing after broadcasting. Harrowing after seeding can result in deep seed burial.

Management & Uses: Slender wheatgrass is commonly used in reclamation and pasture/hayland plantings. It is best suited as a temporary cover with slower developing, more persistent covers. Slender wheatgrass is a preferred wildlife forage and is excellent nesting habitat for many birds. It produces large amounts of seed and will reseed itself if the soil is adequately disturbed.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW. Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.